

AFS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING – MINUTES

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
5:00 pm
Virtual – MS Teams & In-Person



ATTENDANCE

AFS BOARD MEMBERS:	William Johnson, Chair James Agnew Wes Lavergne Megan Bernard	Jane Omollo Patricia R. Lofstrom Lucia O'Connor	Dania Kuzbari Dan Swystun Jennifer Geenen
REGRETS:	Rick Hamilton		
STAFF/LEADERSHIP:	Ali Juma Lisa Guzzo	Jacob Bruzas Arlene Smith	Obianuju Fadijo

MINUTES

1.0 Quorum

Quorum established.

2.0 Constitute Meeting

2.1 Call to Order

The Board Chair calls the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

2.2 General Welcome

The Board Chair welcomes everyone to the meeting, both in-person and online.

2.3 Land Acknowledgement

The Board Chair provides the land acknowledgement.

2.4 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

3.0 Presentation

N/A

4.0 Agenda & Minutes

4.1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION

BIRT, the board approves the January 28, 2026, Public Board Meeting agenda as presented.

Moved by: Patricia R. Lofstrom

Seconded by: Jennifer Geenen All in favour. CARRIED.

4.2 Approval of Minutes

MOTION

BIRT, the board approves the November 11, 2025, Public Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Moved by: Dan Swystun

Seconded by: Megan Bernard All in favour. CARRIED.

4.3 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

No business arising.

5.0 Adjourn to In-Camera

MOTION

BIRT, the board moves to adjourn to the in-camera segment of the meeting at 5:08 pm.

Moved by: Patricia R. Lofstrom

Seconded by: Dan Swystun All in favour. CARRIED.

6.0 Resume Regular Public Board Meeting

MOTION

BIRT, the board moves to resume the regular public board meeting at 7:41 pm.

Moved by: Dan Swystun

Seconded by: Jane Omollo All in favour. CARRIED.

7.0 Accept Motions Made In-Camera

No in-camera motions.

8.0 Items Removed from Consent Agenda

No items removed from consent agenda.

9.0 Consent Agenda

MOTION

BIRT, the board approves the September 24, 2025, consent agenda as presented.

5.1 Board Correspondence

5.2 AFS Foundation Report, *Jessica Lopatka**

5.3 Community Services & Strategic Initiatives Report, *Brenda Clarke**

5.4 Finance & Administration Director's Report, Jacob Bruzas*

5.5 Human Resources Director's Report, *Arlene Smith**
5.6 Service Demand Report, *Melissa Brockelbank - Deferred**
5.7 Director of Service Board Report, *Lisa Guzzo**
5.8 CEO Report, *Ali Juma**

Moved by: Dania Kuzbari
Seconded by: Lucia O'Connor All in favour. CARRIED.

10.0 New/Ongoing Business

10.1 25 Years AFS Anniversary – Scholarship/Activities

Ali reported that AFS will be commemorating its 25th anniversary as an amalgamated agency. To recognize this significant milestone, AFS has established a 25th Anniversary Committee responsible for coordinating celebratory activities throughout the year.

As part of the anniversary initiatives, AFS will introduce a one-time scholarship to be awarded to a graduating high school student who has demonstrated leadership in mental health advocacy and substance use awareness. Eligible recipients must also have been accepted into one of the following programs: Child and Youth Care Worker Program, Social Services Worker Program, Bachelor of Psychology, or Bachelor of Social Work. Preference will be given to first-generation students, defined as individuals who are the first in their family to pursue post-secondary education.

Ali also noted that the Chair of the 25th Anniversary Committee will be invited to an upcoming board meeting to present the planned activities for the year. An invitation was extended to board members to volunteer on the Committee.

10.2 Insurance Renewal

The Chair reported that during the Finance and Operations Committee meeting, members reached a consensus to retain Dawson and Keenan as the agency's insurance broker. The agency will maintain the current liability limit of \$10 million, as reducing the limit would have minimal impact on premium costs.

Other Business:

No other business

11.0 Board Committee Updates

11.1 Finance and Operations Committee Chair Report

The Chair provided a summary of the report and invited board members to review the Committee meeting minutes included in the board package.

11.2 Services and Advocacy Committee Chair Report

The Chair encouraged board members to review the Committee meeting minutes included in the board package.

12.0 Adjournment

MOTION

BIRT, the board moves to adjourn the regular public board meeting at 7:50 pm.

Moved by: Dan Swystun

Seconded by: Dania Kuzbari All in favour. CARRIED.

13.0 NEXT MEETING

- Next Regular Board Meeting February 25, 2026 @ 5 PM

Submitted by: Obianuju Fadjo, Executive Assistant